

REMARKS

The Official Action of February 7, 2008, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application remain claims 1-8, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the abstract and claims and rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, Applicant has:

(1) Enclosed a new substitute abstract on a separate page for that originally filed which eliminates the problems identified by the Examiner, and

(2) Amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner to eliminate each of the problems identified by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that the Examiner's objection to the abstract and claims and rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 has now been overcome.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(b) as being anticipated by Christiansen '166 and claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Christiansen in view of Babbini '152. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections for the following reasons.

Applicant notes that the amendments to claim 1 have been made in order to overcome the Examiner's formal objections and to provide better clarity.

The expression "collection interface" added to claim 1 is found at page 7, line 9 of the filed application. Applicant believes that the term "collection" is clearer because it expresses one of the technical functions of the interspace (to temporarily collect a liquid component part of the pressed material).

The Christiansen jackets comprise respective grooves 12 and 13, each arranged on a respective jacket. Each of such grooves receive a corresponding helicoidal thread 7 or 8. The thread can also be mounted directly on the jackets.

Fig. 3 of Christiansen is reproduced here below for the Examiner's convenience.

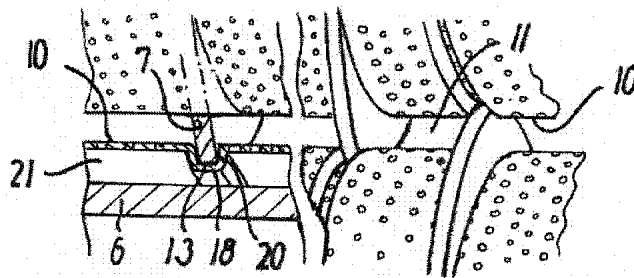


FIG. 3

The difference with the present invention is that, in the invention, the perforated surface 24, 34 of each

helical element 23, 33 of the box-like structure 21, 31 has a length L along the axis of the shaft 20, 30 which is less at every point than the pitch P of the helix 22, 32.

This structural difference has the consequence that the helix 22 wound about shaft 20 is interposed between a side of the helix 32 and the free side wall 36 of the helical element 33 of the adjacent shaft 30 and vice versa¹ (Fig. 2 is reproduced as an example).

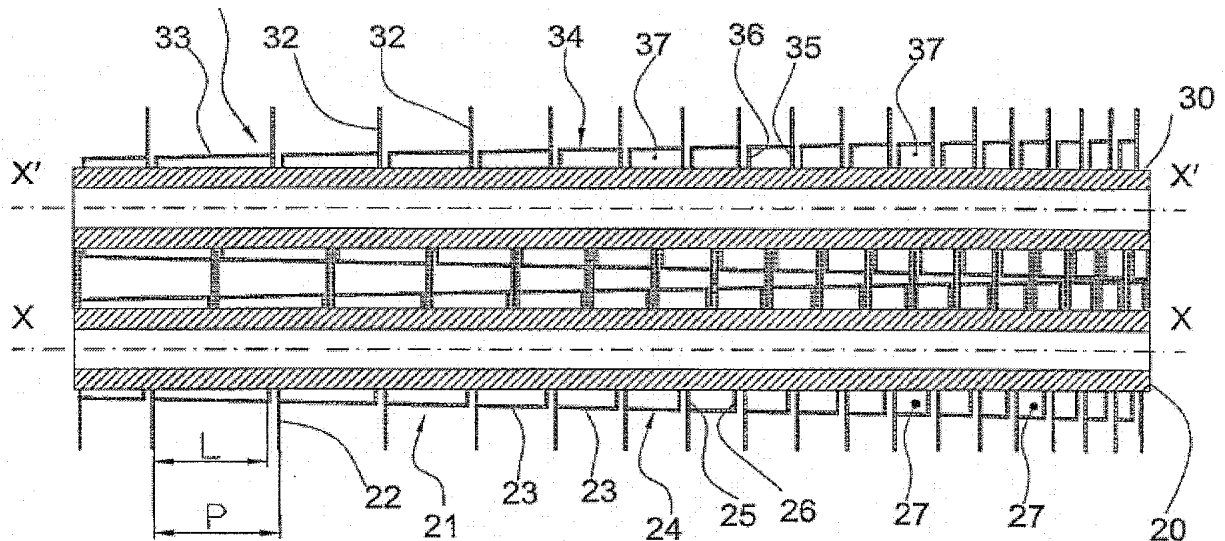


FIG. 2

In comparison, in Christiansen the helix 7 of the adjacent shaft is not received in an open channel abutting the helix as claimed, but is simply received in a channel which is at midway between two successive turns of the helix 8. The

¹ By "vice versa", Applicant means that, in the invention, the helix 32 wound about shafts 30 is interposed between a side of the helix 22 and the free side wall 26 of the helical element 23 of the adjacent shaft 20.

same is symmetrically applicable to the helix 8 of Christiansen with respect to the helix 7.

Applicant therefore submits that by virtue of the combination of features of claim 1, a progressive pressing of the sugar beet pulp is obtained until a degree of controlled dewatering is achieved, which is greater than the dewatering obtainable with known presses.

Babbini discloses a screw press which comprises an enclosure composed of two portions 3, 4 which are arranged side by side and form two substantially conical or cylindrical surfaces.

Each portions 3,4 of the enclosure coaxially accommodate a cylindrical (or frustum-shaped) shaft 5,6. Each shaft has, on its lateral surface, a screw 7,8 which is inscribed in the corresponding portion of the enclosure and protrude, with their turn, between the turns of the screw of the adjacent shaft.

A plurality of perforated ducts 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23 is provided between the lateral surface of at least one of the two shafts 5,6 and the corresponding portion 3,4 of the enclosure for collecting at least part of the liquid produced by pressing.

Applicant respectfully submits that Babbini only addresses the problem of avoiding hollow shafts with

perforated lateral surfaces (paragraph 0006), by substituting such means with the above ducts. As such, Babbini provides no teaching of the inventive features of the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention patentably defines over the cited prior art on the basis of the structural differences identified above.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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